

**“Statement by Commissioner General Mahjub of the Regional Offices for the Boycott of Israel in the Arab Countries, Commenting on the Success of the Economic Boycott of Israel”. *al-Nahar* (Beirut), 9 May, 1971.<sup>1</sup>**

Israel is aware of the impact of the boycott and the extent of the great losses it has inflicted on her economy. This has been the case especially since the Arab boycott developed its methods of action, which made Israel resort to various means, both inside and outside the Arab countries, to destroy the boycott, making use of all her friendships with the West and of the information media which she influences.

In 1964 Israel wanted to strike at the Arab boycott through her ally, America, and increased pressure on the American Congress, which forced the government to pass a law preventing exporting companies from providing the Boycott with the information it required to ascertain the nature of their relations with Israel unless they obtained permission from the American government. This move was successful at first, as these companies were bound by the law, but the Arab Boycott Office imposed a total boycott on companies which refrained from answering any question put to them, and eventually they submitted, so that the Israeli scheme was a failure.

After that Israel tried to put pressure on France, Britain and West Germany, but they refused to respond.

In the last four years Israel has been exerting her influence in another way-by exerting pressure on chambers of commerce in Europe and the United States, in an attempt to stop Arab Boycott Office from foreign companies, the most important being the certificate of origin of the goods they export, to ensure that they include no Israeli materials or merchandise. We then asked these companies to register their replies at a notary public and obtain approval from the Arab embassies, and thereby frustrated the Israeli plan.

The most important step taken by the Arab Boycott to improve Arab-foreign commercial relations was the establishment of joint chambers of commerce with certain Western countries, which were empowered to certify the documents required from the foreign countries. The Arab Boycott now has an American-Arab Chamber of Commerce in New York with numerous branches in the United States, another in France and a third in Turkey, and we are in the process of establishing three more in Britain, Austria and Yugoslavia.

In 1966 Israel realized the failure of her political pressures on the Arab Boycott, which was having an increasing effect on her. She therefore established an Israeli anti-boycott office, for which a budget of more than 20

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million dollars per year was allotted. This organization started its activities in a variety of ways, the most important being its information activities. There were misleading publicity campaigns to the effect that the Arab Boycott was based on racial and religious discrimination, but we made it clear beyond all shadow of doubt that the Boycott had dealings with Jewish companies proved to have no relations with Israel, and that it had put on its black list companies owned by Muslims and Christians which had dealings with Israel.

In the last few years Israel has been threatening companies which respond to the Arab Boycott that she will wage a trade war against them and prevent the United States from consuming their goods. But these companies, and especially the French ones, have paid no attention to this threat, especially as the Boycott Office has recommended that Arab and friendly countries should increase their dealings with these countries, and this in fact is what has happened. For example, three French companies have increased their production by 5 percent, according to their own calculations, as a result of this measure. Recently Israel adopted a new method, choosing an anti-Arab and pro-Zionist newspaper to publish articles which attempt to represent the Arab Boycott as futile, and those responsible for it as lacking both integrity and competence.

We realized this when we read an article in the anti-Arab *Der Spiegel*, the real aim of which was to destroy the Arab Boycott from inside the Arab Countries by certain Arab newspapers copying the article, which is designed to confuse Arab public opinion and cast aspersions on the integrity of those responsible for the Arab Boycott.

It came out that the writer of this article is an Israeli living in Israel. He is the correspondent of *Der Spiegel* and works for Israeli intelligence. I consider it my duty to draw the attention of the press to this so that it may not publish anything that will further the ends of world Zionism, and check everything before publishing it.